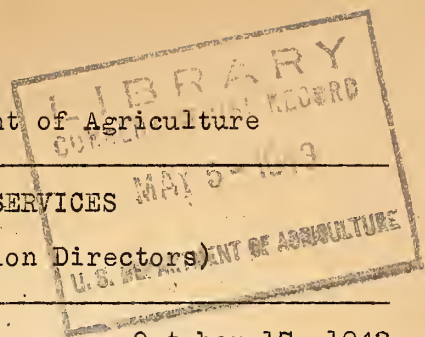


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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 32

October 17, 1942

MINNESOTA (October 1).---All leading programs subject of supervisor-specialist-agent conferences during September to revise procedures to fit as nearly as possible wartime needs and conditions. Plan of work also drawn up to guide agents in neighborhood leader activities and prime neighborhood leaders for important fall and winter activities.

Farm fire-prevention program brought to climax week of October 4 with informational campaign using all possible facilities of press and radio and tying in with other organizational activities. Neighborhood leaders enlisted to complete house-to-house distribution of pamphlet, Prevent Farm Fires, which is check sheet of fire hazards as well as manual for fire prevention.

Transportation study made in Martin County by extension and agricultural economics has furnished valuable transportation information. Information collected with help of neighborhood leaders. Study to be carried on with intensive organization of the county to eliminate wasteful driving. City as well as country groups to be enlisted. Martin County material to be used widely in State in bringing about similar reorganization in other counties.

In sheep-improvement work, breeding program backed by State-wide campaign to insure greater yield of surgical sutures by treatment to eliminate nodular worms. Folder on shearlings, and newspaper publicity, encourage handling of feeder lambs for greater yields of shearling pelts. Folder to be distributed through commission firms to all buyers of feeder lambs.

Program to maintain food production in face of labor shortage and reduced feed supplies now in full swing. Specialists and agents holding conferences with feed dealers to enlist them in better feeding campaign. Two pamphlets in preparation, one on feeding laying hens under present feed conditions, another on use of protein for livestock, with stress on big supplies of linseed and soybean meal.

When a fall windstorm destroyed more than 1,200 barns in 10-county area, Extension played important part in reconstruction. Special committee gathered information and laid it down for use on short notice. Bulletin on straw sheds and other temporary livestock housing information distributed to every farm where damage occurred. Agricultural engineers toured storm area making pictures showing defects in construction responsible for building failure. These pictures and other material on barn construction assembled into sets of slides. Plans were drawn of simple construction barns streamlined for conservation of material and labor, and such material gathered into mimeographed circular. All this material presented at meetings held throughout the storm area. Participation of farmers most gratifying.

4-H program for State completely revised with stress on what boys and girls can do in food production. The way is cleared so that 4-H members get the greatest possible encouragement to join their parents in all-out war production, with credit for farm and home work in 4-H. Regular 4-H projects have been cut down and made subordinate to the principal war goals.

Minnesota-North Dakota network of small stations now carrying market news on important truck crops through cooperative arrangements set up by AMA and Extension. Homemakers' Quarterhour, WLB, will furnish information to housewives on problems of rationing and buying under rapidly changing conditions.

SOUTH DAKOTA (October 1).--Three district conferences of county and home agents with entire specialist staff held during September for discussion of various phases of work to be emphasized in 1943 in light of war effort.

Counties holding Victory Garden Harvest Shows, proceeds going to Army and Navy relief. Counties reported participation exceeded their most optimistic expectations.

Packing plant and transportation facilities of State expected to be severely taxed unless farmers change hog marketing pattern from that of past. State committee appointed to consider situation. Extension will gather all available information and, with help of experiment station staff, prepare educational information for State-wide distribution, particularly to neighborhood leaders.

First of a series of cards to be sent to clothing project leaders and neighborhood leaders, calling attention to clothing conservation, mailed in September. Series will include such topics as Clothes Moth Control, Care of Rubber Clothing, Better Shoe Care, Care of Synthetics. State-wide clothing conference to be called in November of representatives of educational institutions, agencies, and services concerned with rural clothing problems, to determine what new directions a united plan should take in reaching all rural people with information to meet new and changing wartime situations.

Agents continuing to give attention to fat salvage drives in various counties. Literature on subject distributed through neighborhood leaders.

4-H and women's teams assisted in war effort through demonstrating various phases of food preservation at county and State fairs. Large number of people reached in this manner. Meetings are being held in all counties on storage of vegetables and fruits, with demonstrations on proper preparation to conserve food value.

TEXAS (October 1).--Plans for increasing production of high-quality cotton in 1943 to meet wartime needs being pushed vigorously. Information covering research for past 5 years by Federal cotton-spinning laboratories assembled for distribution to all leaders in cotton improvement and all field workers. Producers urged to harvest 1942 cotton crop in best manner possible to obtain high grade.

Efforts of extension poultrymen directed toward reducing egg losses. Three posters distributed on subject have aided, and also brought about improvement in quality of eggs. Increasing capacity of egg-drying plant in State makes quality of eggs of paramount importance. Many educational meetings held with producers and agents in the larger producing areas.

Series of wheat-improvement meetings held in principal producing counties to discourage planting of poor baking varieties. Smut control on wheat, oats, and barley also emphasized. Winter legume program discussed at meetings of county agents and AAA secretaries and committeemen. Winter legume acreage will be increased. Peanut harvesting, curing, and threshing discussed at meetings, and in press releases and circulars. Estimates show peanut acreage for threshing this year of about 1,060,000 compared with 332,000 acres planted in 1941, and a 10-year average of 186,000 acres.

Dairy specialists holding dairy cattle feeding schools in several districts to give county agents technical information on feeding and care of dairy cows to enable them to analyze production difficulties of dairymen in their counties. Schools also held in interest of producing clean milk, and series of meetings relating to silage and hay. General effort made to increase over previous years the amount of silage and hay stored for winter use. County agents conducting demonstrations to increase both yield and nutrition of Bermuda and carpet-grass pastures for milk cows and other farm stock.

Field work of extension economist included round-table discussions with small groups of county agents concerning agricultural prices, income tax regulations affecting the farm, anti-inflation facts, and importance of war bond program to farm families. Folder containing five basic reasons why bond program is important to farm people prepared and distributed.

Attention given to group feeding and rehabilitation in counties in pathway of Gulf hurricanes. In two counties recently damaged one of problems was to get together needed food. Profiting from the experience plans have been worked out for future emergencies in which definite persons will be assigned to specific jobs, and arrangements made for trucks, equipment, and supplies.

In 4-H Club work with girls emphasis being placed on work in the homes, the gardens, orchards, yards, and fields, and work which girls are doing as Victory demonstrators, rather than on meetings and programs. County home demonstration agents progressively considering ways to help people work rather than seeking programs for them to work on.

